

OGC 63-0944

4 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Congressional Relations - John V. Lindsay
(R., New York)

1. The attached memorandum from Colonel Grogan quotes Congressman John V. Lindsay as being critical of a "briefing" by CIA. The facts are as follows:

a. Mr. Lindsay called this office on 14 March, saying he desired (1) Agency views on the creation of a Joint Supervisory Committee of the Congress; (2) briefing on the extent the Agency is supporting the [redacted] (3) the Agency regular briefing on current activities in Cuba.

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b. (I took this request up at the 9 a.m. meeting a day or so later. I pointed out that Mr. Lindsay had been friendly to the Agency and that we had responded to inquiries or discussed matters with him before on a cordial basis. (I felt, therefore, that we should respond to his inquiry, particularly as he had almost certainly picked up some information in New York on our con-[redacted] and it would be better for him to have an accurate story from us than for him to depend on what were probably rumors.) (General Carter said that in the light of recent publicity on congressional hearings we were now obligated to pull in our ears and that we should not respond to requests of individual congressmen.) Specifically he directed that we should not respond to inquiries for classified information such as [redacted] that we did not give individual briefings on such matters as Cuba, and that we should not express views on Joint Committees, which

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was an Administration problem. General Carter said he realized this would cause us a problem in the handling of the matter but that we should respond in the negative.

c. A representative of this office saw Mr. Lindsay on 18 March and said that we did respond to our parent subcommittees in the Congress but were restricted to those subcommittees on classified matters and that as far as the Joint Committees were concerned it was our position that this was a matter of organization for the Congress to determine. Mr. Lindsay was obviously displeased by this reaction.

2. Examples of previous experience with Mr. Lindsay are:

a. Mr. Lindsay was most interested in the Tibetan refugee problem [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and gave him a general briefing on the Tibetan situation. As a result, Mr. Lindsay said he would do all he could to educate his fellow congressmen on the Tibetan question and was very appreciative.

b. In May 1961 Mr. Lindsay asked for help in responding to his constituents on the Cuban situation, particularly those criticizing or mentioning the Agency and intelligence. We met with him and discussed the situation in some detail. Mr. Lindsay was most appreciative and closed with an offer to be of any assistance to the Agency in any way he could.

These are just two of a good number of situations in which Mr. Lindsay has been cooperative and helpful.

3. This is a good example of a congressional problem that arises, often daily. I think we need more flexibility than is allowed by a basically negative attitude which, as may have happened here, needlessly makes us enemies. There are certain congressmen whom we know we cannot talk to on any subject, and there are certain subjects we will not discuss outside of our subcommittees and certain selected key people, but there is a large area in-between where I believe we should be able to have some discussion and thereby improve our general congressional relationships.

SIGNED

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Attachment

cc: DDCI

OGC/LC Subject